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Argumentative paper

children that have lost their mothers at an early age; cannot be compensated for their loss, even if they receive adequate substitute mothering, because no one can truly play the role of mother, better than the biological mother. A mother’s love is phenomenal; it is the first flame to a child’s life. She is the guidance and role model to almost any problem a child can have throughout their life span. Ideally children are raised are raised with two loving parents to care and support them. In some instances, however, this is not the case. When a child is left motherless because of divorce, separation or death, the child may experience problems associated with this absence. The degree to which the absence of a mother impacts a child depends on a variety of factors. Everything from the gender of the child to the age, at which the child loses his or her mother, can play a vital part in determining how harshly the child feels the effects of not having his or her maternal parent. Even though there is no right or good age to lose one's mother, losing a mother at an early age is a major determinant of a child’s survival before the child reaches age one.

When death occurs, it affects the entire family. Children and adolescents must not be overlooked and left on their own to deal with sorrow. Though their mourning exhibits itself differently from adults, it is real and life-changing. The aim of this paper is to account for the eﬀect of mother’s death on child survival. Using comprehensive data on the early French Canadian population of Quebec, evidence is provided for a higher risk of dying for motherless children that remains signiﬁcant over all childhood and long after the death of the mother. The speciﬁc eﬀect of the loss of maternal care was estimated by comparing mortality before and after mother’s death, furnishing a means to control for family heterogeneity. No deferential in investment between genders was detected before age 3, but older girls suﬀered a three-fold higher susceptibility to mother’s death than their male counterparts. This suggests that grown-up girls assuming the responsibilities of the missing mother had a lower chance of survival. Maternal care is a major determinant of infant and child survival. Traditionally, demographers have addressed this issue in terms of socioeconomic status, maternal education, behavioural characteristics of the parents, and household conditions (Das Gupta, 1997; Majumder et al., 1997; David, 1999; Alam, 2000; Folasade, 2000; Shakya & McMurray, 2001). These factors inﬂuence the most proximate determinants of child survival, i.e. breast-feeding and health care practices (Rosenberg, 1989; Majumder, 1991; Kuate Defo, 1997). Many studies have focused on maternal care as a determinant of child mortality but few have been interested in the complete lack or absence of maternal care. Vander Broeck et al. (1996) noted that, in contrast to other risk factors, mother–child separation was rare and did not signiﬁcantly increase mortality in a rural African community. However, Brittain (1992), using a historical dataset from the Caribbean, showed that the death of a mother is a major determinant of a child’s survival before the child reaches age 1.

Andersson et al. (1996), in studying survival of orphans in 19th century Sweden, showed that the motherless infants had the worst outcome. Studying the eﬀects of kin on child mortality in rural Gambia, Sear et al. (2002) showed that having a living mother had a signiﬁcant positive eﬀect on the survival probabilities of children up to age 5. However, to the authors’ knowledge, no study has addressed the relationship between mother’s mortality and child’s survival to adulthood according to the age of the child at the death of the mother, where the lost might have occurred at any time during childhood. The aim of this study is to obtain a minimal measure of the speciﬁc eﬀect of the loss of maternal care following the death of the mother.

According to Weenolsen (1988) loss can be characterized as anything that destroys some aspect of life or self. According to Worden (2002) grief can be characterized as the experience of someone who has lost an important relationship or even an attachment to another person. These concepts can be directly related to the loss of a parent. Losing a parent can be extraordinarily difficult due to the loss of support and characteristics which identify the position and role of a parent as being very special (Despelder & Strickland, 2005). The grieving processes can mean different changes for those within different roles. Older adults who lose their parents do not process or grieve as a child who has lost their parent. I feel that both of these specific roles and experiences are of greatest importance. Issues of culture also maintain consistent changes across societies in how one works through or expresses the loss of their loved ones. Support for children and adults is a very important part of the grieving process and should be connected to characteristics of who children and adults are within their roles and how they respond to such loss

Women who lost their mothers early on in life know how this painful loss can profoundly affect their lives. Many say without a mother's support and mentoring, they had to mature faster than their peers. Many learned to be mothers for themselves and often for their younger siblings as well. Mourning a lost mother is a life-long process, and Edelman says understanding that can help young girls deal with their emotions. "I'd encourage young girls not to reject her mother or push the memory of the lost mother aside because it's painful," she says. "But to find ways to incorporate her mother into her daily life, whether it's wearing a piece of her mother's jewelry, or just having a photo of her in the house to recognize that her mother was an important part of her past and embrace whatever relationship she can have with her mother in the present."

Living without a mother is not an easy task, it is one of the hardest things to do in the world and I would like to take this opportunity to commend everyone who has been doing so for years. Mother’s day is one of the best and worst days for me if you know what I mean. It is the best day because it’s a day of celebration and giving thanks but at the same time it is the worse day because I have no mother to celebrate it with. It is really sad when others are taking about the different variety of gifts that they are going to purchase for their parents because I have no one to purchase a gift for. Mother’s days are one of the most difficult days for me and many other children too. On mother’s day I make it my point of duty to reflect on all the wonderful memories of my mother but what about all those children around the world that does not have any memory of their mothers because they don’t know there mother. Imagining what they go through on a day to day basis.

The lost of a mother at an early age is very difficult to deal with and

as a child can be a trauma very hard to overcome, especially at a very young age. It has consequences that go beyond the death of the loved one. It changes the child, it changes its future, its personality, its beliefs, its fears, its cravings, the way the child perceives the world.

It is hard for others, who have not had a similar experience, to understand what this means. It is hard for the adults around the child to comprehend how it scars the child. This scar will last forever. It will be with the child as she grows, year after year, until adulthood and beyond into the old age and it will never disappear.

It is of the utmost importance that the adults around the child understand what this means, as they often don’t and often perceive the child’s pain as their own, when it’s nothing like it.

When I talk about a child I mean especially the ages from birth to age 1 year old. This range of age represents a time when the child does not understand at all the concept of death and no amount of explanations will help.

I don’t mean that losing a parent at any other age is easier, but when it comes to affect personal development and also when it comes to being able to intervene, in order to help this personal development to be smoother and more natural, I believe this an extremely important range of ages.

Until 4 years old everything is a bit of a blur, although losing a parent will then take a toll later on. And from 12 years old on the child has a different understanding that allows the child to deal with death in a very different and more rational way.

In closing, I would like to add that I choose to do this topic because it is a topic very close to my heart. I know what it feels like to live without a mother, living without a mother make life a living hell. I would like to encourage everyone who is living without a mother to do everything positive to become the best person they can be so that their mother will be proud of them.

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